

Message Text

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21

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FM AMCONSUL DURBAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1958

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

UNCLAS DURBAN 0161

CAPE TOWN ALSO FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PGOV, ELAB, SF

SUBJ: TRADE UNIONS TO BE BANNED IN INDEPENDENT TRANSKEI

1. DURING LUNCHEON ADDRESS TO BUSINESSMEN IN JOHANNESBURG APRIL 22, PARAMOUNT CHIEF KAISER MATANZIMA REVEALED TRADE UNIONS WOULD BE BARRED FROM TRANSKEI DURING FIRST FEW FORMATIVE YEARS FOLLOWING INDEPENDENCE. MATANZIMA STATED TRANSKEI GOVERNMENT (TG) HAD "CONSISTENTLY TAKEN STAND THAT TRADE UNIONS, WITH THEIR POTENTIAL FOR DISRUPTION, ARE UNDESIRABLE AND EVEN HARMFUL FOR DEVELOPING COUNTRY LIKE TRANSKEI". INSTEAD, TG WOULD SEEK "GOLDEN MEAN" BETWEEN VOICELESS WORKERS AND MILITANT TRADE UNIONISTS.

2. FUTURE TRANSKEI WOULD, HE ALSO REPORTED, BE MULTI-RACIAL BUT WOULD NOT FORCE INTEGRATION. TG WOULD BE WILLING MAKE CONCESSIONS FOR WHITES PROVIDED THEY WERE IN INTEREST OF COUNTRY AS A WHOLE; E.G. HOSPITALS MIGHT INCLUDE SEPARATE WARDS FOR WHITES, ALTHOUGH OPERATING THEATERS ETC. WOULD BE INTEGRATED.

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3. COMMENT: MATANZIMA'S ENVISIONED BANNING OF TRADE UNIONS,
AND CLAIM THAT TG AND TRANSKEI PEOPLE "CAPITALISTS BY NATURE",
PART OF CONTINUING EFFORT TO WOO SOUTH AFRICAN INDUSTRY TO
TRANSKEI. ADDED BENEFIT FROM TG POINT OF VIEW WILL BE
ABSENCE OF ORGANIZATIONS WHICH MIGHT WELL ENCOURAGE OPPOSITION
TO MATANZIMA'S RULE.
HOLMES

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